Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Method for diagnosing malfunctions of <u>an</u> apparatus delivering goods or services against payment, of the automatic terminal type, <u>said apparatus having a means of payment,</u> said method comprising the steps of:

calculating the value of at least one data item representative of the operation of said apparatus<u>, wherein said at least one data item representative of the operation of said apparatus is the time that has elapsed since a latest payment made with the means of payment and the time that is intended to elapse as long as no other payment is made with the means of payment</u>;

comparing said calculated value to a predetermined reference value; and

deducing the occurrence of a malfunction in the event <u>said calculated value is superior to said predetermined reference value</u> ~~of a predetermined difference between said values~~.

2. (withdrawn) Method according to claim 1, wherein said data item representative of the operation of said apparatus is representative of the frequency of payments made at said apparatus.

3. (cancelled) Method according to claim 1, wherein said data item representative of the operation of said apparatus is the time that has elapsed since the last payment made to said apparatus.

4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said data item representative of the operation of said apparatus is the time that has elapsed since the last payment made via said apparatus for each of the payment means accepted by said apparatus.

5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said reference value is representative of the average of values taken by said data item representative of the operation of the apparatus.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said reference value depends at least on a parameter such as the time of day or the apparatus concerned.

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein predetermined difference depends at least on a parameter such as the time of day or the apparatus concerned.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the operations of calculating a data item representative of the operation of said apparatus and comparing the

calculated value and a predetermined reference value are effected directly by said apparatus.

9. (withdrawn) Method according to claim 1, wherein the operations of calculating a

data item representative of the operation of said apparatus and comparing the calculated value

and a predetermined reference value are partly or completely effected by a server adapted to

communicate with said apparatus.

10. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a

terminal for paying for parking spaces, such as a parking voucher dispenser or a parking meter.

11. (new) An apparatus for delivering goods or services against payment, of the

automatic type, said apparatus comprising:

a means of payment;

a means for calculating the value of at least one data item representative of the

operation of said apparatus, where said at least one data item representative of the operation of

said apparatus is the time that has elapsed since a latest payment made with the means of

payment, and will elapse as long as no other payment is made with the means of payment;

a means of comparing said calculated value to a reference value; and

a means for detecting the occurrence of a malfunction in the event said calculated

value is superior to the reference value.

6

12. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said apparatus is a terminal; for paying for parking spaces.

13. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said apparatus is either one of a parking voucher dispenser or a parking meter.